

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/010827

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 3-8 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 1, 2, 2a received by this Authority on 16.07.2005 with letter of 16.07.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-19 as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/3-3/3 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9, 13-16, 18, 19	YES
	Claims	10-12, 17	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9, 14-16	YES
	Claims	10-14, 17-19	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
1	This report makes reference to the following documents:		
	D1: DE 34 01 922 A		
	D2: DE 23 46 515 B		
	D3: US 2002166587 A		
	D4: PAJ 61 -83822		
	D5: DE 967916 C		
2	INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1		
2.1	D1 discloses a method of controlling a chimney draft on a burning system connected upstream, in which method a flue that is open toward the bottom is provided with a flap in such a way that, in order to control a chimney draft on the burning system connected upstream, a portion of the cross-section of the flue is exposed as a result of movement of the flap.		
2.2	The subject matter of independent claim 1 differs therefrom in that the flue is immersed in a tub in such a way that, by means of the liquid collected in the tub, a liquid barrier is formed which		

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	<p>closes the flue on the flue gas end, and in that, to control the draft on the system connected upstream, a portion of the cross-section is exposed by the liquid level being lowered to under the edge of the flue.</p>
2.3	<p>The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p>
2.4	<p>The problem to be solved by the present invention can therefore be regarded as that of providing quicker and simpler dynamic opening and sealing of the air passage cross-section in order to control a draft.</p>
2.5	<p>Although it is already known from D2 to immerse the lower end of a flue, which expands in length as a result of thermal conditions, in a tub filled with a liquid in order to seal the flue, D2 does not contain anything that would suggest that this system be used or can be used to create an air inlet cross-section by lowering the liquid level.</p>
2.6	<p>The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).</p>
3.	<p>DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2 TO 9</p> <p>Claims 2 to 9 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>
4	<p>INDEPENDENT CLAIM 10</p>

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4.1	<p>D2 (the references in parentheses are to D2) describes that a flue (7) that is open at the bottom can be immersed in a tub and that, by means of a liquid (15) collected in the tub, a liquid barrier is formed which seals the flue from the environment at the flue gas end.</p>
4.2	<p>Furthermore, it is possible, for example, owing to the fact that the tub and the flue can be displaced telescopically relative to each other (see column 6, lines 2-8), to lower the liquid level to below the edge of the flue in order to expose a portion of the flue cross-section. The liquid level can therefore be lowered to under the edge of the flue, and thus a portion of the flue cross-section can be exposed. A system of this type is also suitable for reducing the effect of a flue draft on an upstream flue gas-purifying system.</p>
4.3	<p>The present application therefore fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) because the subject matter of claim 10 is not novel within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2).</p>
5	<p>DEPENDENT CLAIMS 11 TO 13 AND 17 TO 19</p> <p>Claims 11 to 13 and 17 to 19 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- for claims 11, 12, 17 see D2, figure 3,

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6	<p>- for claim 13, see D3, figure 6 and paragraph 58, - for claim 18, see D4, abstract and figures 1, 2 - for claim 19, see D5, figure 1 and page 2, lines 73-84</p> <p>DEPENDENT CLAIMS 14 TO 16</p> <p>The combination of features in claims 14 to 16 are neither known nor obvious from the available prior art.</p>

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Box No. VII **Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

7. The word "wir" on page 4, line 25 of the German text should read "wird".

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

8. A lack of clarity arises from the term
“(condensate)” in parentheses in claims 1 and 10.
This term is not regarded as a feature that limits
the scope of the claims.